

Friends of Hullett



Winter 2025 Newsletter

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello Friends of Hullett Members,

I would like to thank the volunteer Board of Directors (BOD), staff and most importantly, our members and volunteers for another year of strong support. With our new and first time Friends of Hullett (FOH) members joining in 2024, our community-based organization continues to grow from a varied base of different user types.

This past year saw major infrastructure upgrades with a new roof being installed on the Orange Trail viewing stand and significant improvements to parking lots through replacement of parking barriers and gravel grading. A brand-new accessible hunting blind was also installed near the Burns Line Parking Lot. As we move ahead in 2025, major projects being looked at include a second new accessible hunting blind, further improvements to parking lots, creating photo monitoring stations, and dyke improvements.

Excitement is building for the 10th Annual Spring Charity Dinner and Auction as we continue to build on the success of the last couple of years. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for more details on this great event.

The AGM will be held this spring with final details to be sent out via email in April. This is your chance as a member to express your ideas and concerns in person. Members can also choose to run for Board positions at the AGM as outlined in page 6 of this newsletter.

Scott Austin has stepped back from his role as Marsh Manager but will continue to play a key role as our part-time Administrative Manager. The Marsh Manager position is manned by Justin Johnson while Ben Elliott, our Wildlife & GIS Technician, has signed on for his third year.

To conclude, I hope you enjoy this multi-use property and the winter wonders of Hullett. Please be sure to read and understand the property regulations as outlined in the revised User Guide.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors

What's Inside?

Page 1

- **Board of Directors Overview**

Page 2

- **Membership Renewal**
- **Roads and Parking Lots**
- **Snowmobiles in Hullett**

Page 3

- **Pheasant Challenge 2024**
- **Pheasant Release 2025**
- **Vanessa Palmer Award 2025**

Page 4

- **Winter Activities**
- **Hullett User Tip Sheets**
- **Charity Dinner & Auction**

Page 5

- **New Marsh Manager**
- **New Admin Manager**
- **2025 Forestry Tours**

Page 6

- **2025 FOH Board of Directors**
- **2025 Photo Contest**



Membership Renewal

As of December 31st, 2024, memberships that were purchased prior to September 1st, 2024, have expired.

Our [website](#) offers a streamlined form that can be used to purchase or renew your membership. As a member, you are entitled to a vehicle decal, voting rights at the Annual General Meeting, optional newsletters like this three times annually, and access to the Columbia Employee Store in London!

Various payment options are available, including cash in our drop box at the office gate (41378 Hydro Line Road) pictured below, cheque (made out to “Friends of Hullett”), e-Transfer to fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com and PayPal! Members receive a tax receipt for membership fees!



Funds from your \$35 annual membership donation is used for property maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, habitat restoration, invasive species control, public education, trail work, signage – everything and anything we need to keep Hullett thriving!



Hullett Dropbox located at the Office Complex at 41378 Hydro Line Road

Roads and Parking Lots



Accessing Hullett Marsh during winter can be challenging. Interior roads within the Marsh (Front Road, Burns Line, etc.) are not maintained. Use them at your own risk and obey any road closures for safety. Two parking lots (40672 Hydro Line Road & 80602 Wildlife Line) will be

plowed as staff availability allows. Please be patient as staff work to clear the snow.

Snowmobiles at Hullett



During winter, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) marks trails across Ontario for safe snowmobiling. The Huron Trail Groomers Club maintains trails in Hullett and surrounding areas. Please stay on marked trails to ensure safety and protect wildlife. Avoid closed trails to prevent damage to agricultural land. Visit www.ofsc.on.ca for more information.



2024 Pheasant Challenge

The Annual Pheasant Challenge was strongly supported once again this year and ensured the 2025 pheasant hunt. FOH would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and embraced our online PAYPAL ordering system.

A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors [Sommers Generators](#) for generously donating the generator and [Clinton Sporting Goods](#) for providing the shotgun and allowing physical ticket purchases at their store. A special thanks also to Mike Leitch for all his efforts in helping to sell tickets.



With a slight drop in ticket sales over the past year, support for the Pheasant Challenge was still strong with 961 tickets being sold this year! Congratulations to our winners drawn on January 22nd, 2025!

Churchill SXS Shotgun:

Alan Brothers of Elora, ON

Briggs and Stratton Generator:

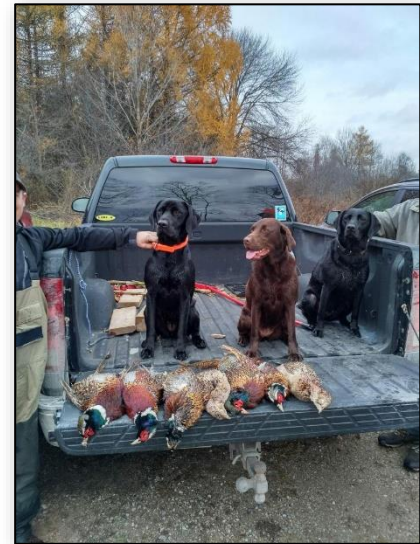
Brad Souliere of London, ON

Over the past season, **1000 pheasants** – supplied by Andy Lancaster of [Royal Game Birds](#) and Ralph Gerber of [Creekside Pheantry](#) – were released in Zone B between September and December 2024.



Pheasant Release 2025

The release program will continue for the fall 2025 pheasant hunt! Participation among users remained strong in 2024 with financial support for the program; with \$1,872 in direct cash donations and \$9,610 from the Pheasant Challenge, we have sufficient funding for an 800 bird release in 2025! Each pheasant costs approximately \$14.50 per bird plus administration and release costs.



Vanessa Palmer Award

FOH is now accepting applications for the Vanessa Palmer Award.

To apply, high school students interested in pursuing careers in conservation, biology, environmental science, or related fields are asked to submit a letter outlining their achievements, career goals, ambitions, and/or contributions to the environment or conservation. The successful applicant will be presented with a \$500 cheque from FOH at our Annual General Meeting.

If you are interested in applying for the Vanessa Palmer Award, please submit your letter to FOH staff via email (fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com). Applicants must submit their letters by **April 13th, 2025**.

For more information about the Vanessa Palmer Award and how to apply, click [here!](#)



Winter Activities

With winter in full swing at Hullett Marsh, there are many activities that users can participate in. Since 2 of our parking lots are maintained throughout the winter, some of our trails, including Blue, Yellow, White Green and Purple trails, can all be accessed.



With trails open, users can:

- Snowshoe
- Cross-country ski
- Hike
- Geocache
- Hunt (following Hullett and Ontario Regulations)

Be sure you get out this winter and enjoy what Hullett has to offer.

Hullett User Tip Sheets!

Friends of Hullett staff have created a couple tip sheets to help users better understand the rules and regulations and also to help answer some common questions so that you can be safe and enjoy your hunting and hiking experiences at Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area.

Below you will find a link to the Hullett Regulations, as well as a Hunting at Hullett tip sheet and a Hiking Hullett tip sheet.

[Hullett Regulations](#)

[Hunting at Hullett Tip Sheet](#)

[Hiking at Hullett Tip Sheet](#)

Annual Charity Dinner & Auction

FOH would like to thank those who purchased a ticket to the 10th *Annual Spring Charity Dinner and Auction* for their overwhelming support, with only 14 tickets remaining!

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, April 12th, 2025**, at the **Bluewater Golf Course** and Chef Dan Taylor of **Pineridge Barbeque** will provide the meal.



With limited tickets remaining, make sure to grab your ticket as soon as possible! You can also support Friends of Hullett and this great event by **donating items** for the **silent and live auctions**. We welcome a variety of items as the more unique and interesting items we have, the more fun the night will be!

If you have something that you think would make a good addition to the auction, please email staff at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com. **Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.**



Saturday April 12, 2025
Reception 4pm • Dinner 5:30pm
Live Auction 7pm
Cost \$135 per person
with only 85 seats available
Location: Bluewater Golf Course
77416 Bluewater Hwy.
Bayfield, ON
Sponsored By:



New Marsh Manager

We are excited to announce that Justin Johnson is the new Marsh Manager for the Friends of Hullett!

Justin holds a B.Sc. from the University of Windsor and an M.Sc. from the University of Alberta, where his research focused on avian ecology, particularly bird migration monitoring through audio recordings. Before joining the Friends of Hullett, Justin gained valuable experience working with industry, institutions, and governments in the Alberta oilsands. Upon returning to Ontario, he dedicated himself to conservation efforts, contributing to stewardship projects, invasive species management, and research for organizations such as Ontario Parks, Friends of Pinery Park, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.



An avid birder, Justin enjoys spending time outdoors kayaking, camping, and hiking. He is also a newcomer to hunting and fishing and interested in all tips and tricks. Justin is thrilled to bring his scientific expertise to the Friends of Hullett and contribute to the protection and enhancement of the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area (HPWA) for the benefit of both the community and the environment.

New Admin Manager

After twelve years of dedicated service as Marsh Manager for the Friends of Hullett, Scott Austin has stepped down to enjoy semi-retirement. Scott will continue to support FOH in a part-time role, focusing on general administration, financial bookkeeping, and assisting staff with mowing and habitat maintenance.

Scott has been an integral part of FOH since its inception, serving as a founding member of the Board of Directors and the organization's first treasurer. He is now looking forward to spending more time with his nearly two-year old grandson and is welcoming a new grandchild to the family. Scott plans to use this extra time to share his love of the outdoors with his grandchildren, mentoring them in the wonders of the natural world.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Scott for his many years of exceptional service to the Friends of Hullett and the HPWA.

2025 Forestry Tours

The Friends of Hullett had the pleasure of hosting the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) for three visits to the marsh in 2024. These visits: supported by Huron County's SLED fund, profiled the implementation of LiDAR technology for forest monitoring, woodlot management, and silvicultural practices. Attendees learned how to inventory woodlots, about tax relief programs through forest management, and the threat of invasive species. The Ontario Woodlot Association intends on providing three more workshops in 2025. Membership will be notified when workshops are planned, and we strongly encourage those interested in woodlot management and forest health to attend!



2025 Board of Directors

Are you interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors (BOD) so that FOH can continue in a positive direction? Email us at fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com for an application.

- 3 BOD positions are up for renewal/election on Sunday May 28th, 2025
- To run for the BOD you **must be a member of the FOH** and are required to submit an application expressing your interest to run for the BOD.

Please email your "Application to Run for Director" to David Denyes at MNRF Vineland Field Office. Please note that applications must be received by David Denyes by May 1st, 2025.

David Denyes
Management Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Vineland Field Office
4890 Victoria Avenue North.
Vineland Station ON
LOR 2E0
289-241-6872
david.denyas@ontario.ca



2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Show us your pictures of Hullett Marsh! From scenery to wildlife, to hunting, horseback riding, and family fun, FOH wants to see it all! Email your submissions to fohoffice@hullettmarsh.com

Images MUST:

- Be taken at the HPWA
- Depict safe, rule abiding practices
- Not contain any gore
- Include photographer's name in the file name (eg. John_Smith.jpg)

1st Place Prize:

Free Hullett Membership and Photo featured on the cover of the **2025/2026** User Guide

2nd - 6th Place Prize:

Photo showcased on the cover of the **2025/2026** User Guide

By entering your photos, you give Friends of Hullett the rights to use them in media posts, presentations, newsletters, and public displays with photo credit.

Photo Contest deadline April 30, 2025

